

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A rotary microtome comprising:
  - a base part on which a microtome housing and a knife holder is arranged;
  - a collection element which surrounds the knife holder on three sides, wherein the collection element is defined by a bottom, a first and a second inner side wall, a front wall, and a first and a second outer side wall;
  - several clamping levers are coupled with the knife holder; wherein at least one clamping lever for the knife holder is arranged operably on the first or second outer side wall; and
  - a mechanical coupling is guided under the bottom of the collection element from the clamping lever to the knife holder.
2. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 1, wherein the collection element is a pan having a U-shaped base outline; and the first and the second outer side wall are joined to one another by an outer front wall so that the pan surrounds the knife holder on three sides.
3. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 1, wherein the bottom of the collection element has shaped on it an elevation under which the mechanical coupling is guided from the clamping lever to the knife holder.
4. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 1, wherein the knife holder is equipped with a hex socket screw which makes possible unrestricted angular adjustment of a knife support element and thus of a knife provided on the knife support element.
5. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 1, wherein a first clamping lever serves to immobilize a knife carriage on the knife support element; and a second clamping lever serves to clamp the knife.

6. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first and the second outer side wall adjoin the microtome housing in such a way that no step is formed in the region where the first and the second outer side wall encounter the microtome housing.
7. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 1, wherein the collection element is embodied in one piece.
8. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 7, wherein the collection element comprises a magnetizable element that coacts with at least one magnet that is provided correspondingly on the base part of the rotary microtome.
9. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 1, wherein the base part has a peripheral step configured beneath the knife holder, and the first and the second inner side wall and the inner front wall adjoin the base part in such a way that the peripheral step projects beyond the first and the second inner side wall and the front wall.
10. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first and the second inner side wall, the first and the second outer side wall, and the front wall abut together with the bottom of the collection element in a fillet.
11. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 2, wherein the first and the second inner side wall, the first and the second outer side wall, an inner front wall, and the outer front wall abut together with the bottom of the collection element in a fillet.
12. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 1, wherein the first outer side wall, the second outer side wall, and the front wall are respectively joined to one another via a fillet.
13. The rotary microtome as defined in Claim 2, wherein the outer first side wall, the second outer side wall, and the outer front wall are dimensioned in such a way that the

first outer side wall and the second outer side wall have a lesser spacing at the outer front wall than at the base part.

14. A collection element for a rotary microtome comprising:
  - a knife holder which the collection element surrounds on three sides, wherein the collection element is defined by a bottom, a first and a second inner side wall, and a front wall, as well as a first and a second outer side wall; and
  - a mechanical coupling is guided under the bottom of the collection element, wherein the mechanical coupling provides a mechanical connection from at least one clamping lever, arranged on the first or second outer side wall, to the knife holder.
15. The collection element as defined in Claim 14, wherein the collection element is a pan having a U-shaped base outline; and the first and the second outer side wall are joined to one another by an outer front wall so that the pan encloses the knife holder on three sides.
16. The collection element as defined in Claim 14, wherein the bottom of the collection element has shaped on it an elevation under which the mechanical coupling is guided from the clamping lever to the knife holder.
17. The collection element as defined in Claim 14, wherein the collection element is embodied in one piece.
18. The collection element as defined in Claim 17, wherein the collection element is manufactured of plastic.
19. The collection element as defined in Claim 14, wherein the first and the second inner side wall, the first and the second outer side wall, and the front wall abut together with the bottom of the collection element in a fillet.

20. The collection element as defined in Claim 15, wherein the first and the second inner side wall, the first and the second outer side wall, the inner front wall, and the outer front wall abut together with the bottom of the collection element in a fillet.
21. The collection element as defined in Claim 14, wherein the first outer side wall, the second outer side wall, and the front wall are respectively joined to one another via a fillet.
22. The collection element as defined in Claim 15, wherein the first outer side wall, the second outer side wall, and the outer front wall are respectively joined to one another via a fillet.
23. The collection element as defined in Claim 22, wherein the first outer side wall, the second outer side wall, and the outer front wall are dimensioned in such a way that the first outer side wall and the second outer side wall have a lesser spacing at the outer front wall than at the base part.
24. A rotary microtome comprising:
  - a base part on which a microtome housing and a knife holder is arranged;
  - a collection element which surrounds the knife holder on three sides, wherein the collection element is defined by a bottom, a first and a second inner side wall, an inner front wall and an outer front wall, and a first and a second outer side wall;
  - several clamping levers are coupled with the knife holder; wherein at least one clamping lever for the knife holder is arranged operably on the first or second outer side wall; and
  - a mechanical coupling is guided under the bottom of the collection element from the clamping lever to the knife holder.

25. A collection element for a rotary microtome comprising:
- a knife holder which the collection element surrounds on three sides, wherein the collection element is defined by a bottom, a first and a second inner side wall, an inner front wall and an outer front wall, as well as a first and a second outer side wall; and
  - a mechanical coupling is guided under the bottom of the collection element, wherein the mechanical coupling provides a mechanical connection from at least one clamping lever, arranged on the first or second outer side wall, to the knife holder.